10-17-12

los angeles valley college's
VALLEY STAR
the independent student newspaper

CROSS TOWN RIVALRY OVER VICTORY BELL

PIERCE COLLEGE RINGS THE BELL FOR THE FIFTH TIME.

SEE PAGE 7

lavalleystar.com | October 17, 2012 | Volume 77 Issue 4

PRINTING APPROVED AT LIBRARY

After a seven-week ban, students can now print and copy in the Library and Academic Resource Center.

COURTNEY BASSLER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

As of last week, students are now able to print and copy in the Library and Academic Resource Center.

According to Library Services Department Chair Georgianna Sampler, she received the OK on Oct. 10 to allow printing and copying services for the students in the Library.

"No one is happier than the library staff," said Sampler. "I know students were anxious [to print]."

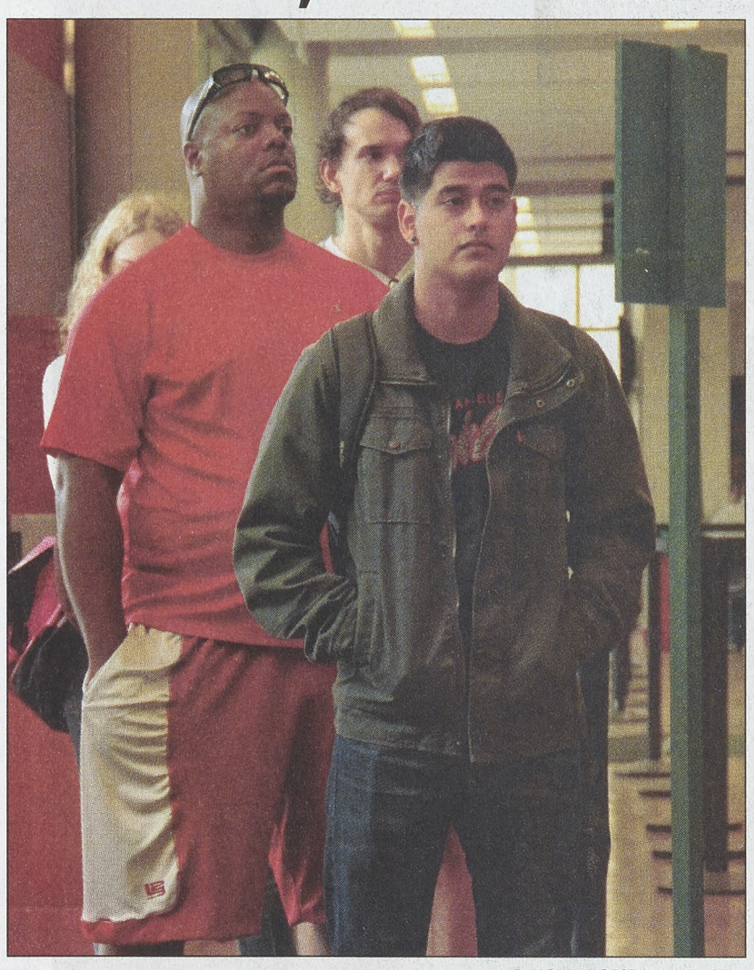
That is true of undecided major James Bates.

"It's about bloody time," said Bates. "I traveled to the [Mission College] campus to print out papers."

|See **PRINTING**, Page 2|

RICHARD RAZAVI, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR
LAST HURRAH - Space Shuttle Endeavour travels at a crawling two miles per hour down Crenshaw Blvd. on Saturday, Oct. 13 on its final journey to the California Science Center.

WAIT TIME FOR PELL GRANT VALLEY STUDENTS IS LONGER, NEW DISTRICT RULES FOR FINANCIAL AID



RAY BLUMHORST | VALLEY STAR
WAITING THEIR TURN - A group of students wait Thursday at the Financial Aid office.

Students are now expected to wait six to eight weeks for their Pell Grant money.

JULIO FLORES
STAFF WRITER

Valley College students may have to wait six to eight weeks to get their Pell Grant money due to new rules placed on the Financial Aid Department by the Los Angeles Community College District.

These new rules are that students need to fill out new online forms available through the LACCD's student information system, the same system where students go to register for classes before receiving their money.

But since the process is new, many students do not understand it and have been coming into the Financial Aid office to ask for assistance.

"Even after all things have been checked and verified, the process could still take six to eight weeks for the grant money to be disbursed," said Sylvia Diaz, the Financial Aid supervisor at Valley.

The process is taking that long so the file can be reviewed, according to Diaz. She also explained that a student would not be able to receive an award letter and would not be eligible to receive a student loan until they receive that award letter, which students are waiting for.

About 4,000 students have already been awarded their disbursements of Pell Grant money, but about 2,000 are in limbo due to the new rules, according to Diaz.

The Federal Pell Grant Program provides need-based grants to low-income undergraduates, and the largest award for the 2012 to 2013 school year is $5,500 and does not have to be repaid.

"Our amount of applicants have nearly doubled or tripled from last year and because we are short-staffed," Diaz said.

The Financial Aid office used to be able to accept paper tax returns, but the LACCD is now requiring the form to be approved by the IRS website through fafsa.org. The FAFSA information for student tax returns and all information on the student's FAFSA needs to be verified to be correct, according to Diaz.

Diaz also added that the goal of the online system—implemented by the district—was to streamline the system of processing applications, allowing students to not wait in line at the Financial Aid Department on campus. Since it's a new process, a good amount of students have not followed through on filling out their forms.

Many students, such as Joseph Marcello, are waiting for aid and aren't happy about the process.

"I feel like I'm jumping through hoops to get the right forms filled out. I find out they're online," said Marcello. "I get it all completed, and, still, I have to wait. I need the money now, not when the semester ends. It's not right for the district to hold our money. It's our money."

Students who would like more information about the status of the grant money can visit the Financial Aid office located in the Student Services Center. Its hours are Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 to 7 p.m., and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE

VALLEY VILLAGE'S STEAMPUNK

The Valley Star reviews a recently opened coffee bar and kitchen just blocks away from campus.

These features and more can be found in full @ www.lavalleystar.com

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Cal State and UC applications are due Nov. 30 for the fall 2013 semester. For further information, contact the Career/Transfer Center.

CAREER/TRANSFER CENTER
PHONE NUMBER: 818-947-2646

VALLEY COLLEGE MAINTAINS ITS TREE CAMPUS USA DISTINCTION

Valley College was host to a tree-planting ceremony on campus Monday afternoon honoring its special merit.

ROMEO GONZALEZ
SPORTS EDITOR

Valley College, the Arbor Day Foundation and Toyota were host to a special tree-planting event Monday afternoon recongizing Valley's distinction as the only community college in California and the first college or university in Los Angeles to receive the Tree Campus USA title.

"It's a pleasure to be here at LAVC as a part of this Tree Campus USA event," said Mary Widhelm, the program manager for the Arbor Day Foundation. "Today, we celebrate LAVC's participation in the program."

A group of about 100 people that included students and staff from Valley, members of the Arbor Day Foundation, Toyota and community leaders came to show support as the college was honored with a banner and plaque awarding the school a Tree Campus USA recognition.

The participants also took part in planting 30 new trees on campus alongside Burbank Boulevard, near the North Mall of the Theater Arts Building close to Fulton Avenue.

This year, Valley is one of 13 schools that will receive a special tree-planting event from the Arbor Day Foundation and Toyota. Valley has also become one of five colleges and universities in California—University of Redlands, UC Davis, UCSD and UC Irvine—with the merit.

"Your incredible commitment and sustainability makes it clear that you deserve these trees and care enough about the environment," said James H. Colon, the vice president of product communications of Toyota. "College campuses are a great way to initiate the tree movement."

Part of the tree-planting event included removing tree stumps to make room for new ones. Valley President Sue Carleo, along with members of the ECO advocates club, participated in the tree planting.

According to Carleo, the Arbor Day Foundation and Tree Campus USA reached out to Valley, asking if it would like to be part of an event where trees would be planted throughout the school.

"They contacted [Valley] asking if we would like to be part of a special activity as part of this national conference," said Carleo.

The Tree Campus USA program is going on its fifth year with the goal of awarding schools that are doing a good job of maintaining healthy trees.

For more information about the Tree Campus USA program, visit www.arborday.org/TreeCampusUSA.

> **"Your incredible commitment and sustainability makes it clear that you deserve these trees and care enough about the environment."**
>
> -James H. Colon, vice president of Product Communications of Toyota

THE VALLEY STAR INFO & STAFF

THE VALLEY STAR is published by students of the journalism and photography classes as a learning experience, offered under the college journalism instructional program.

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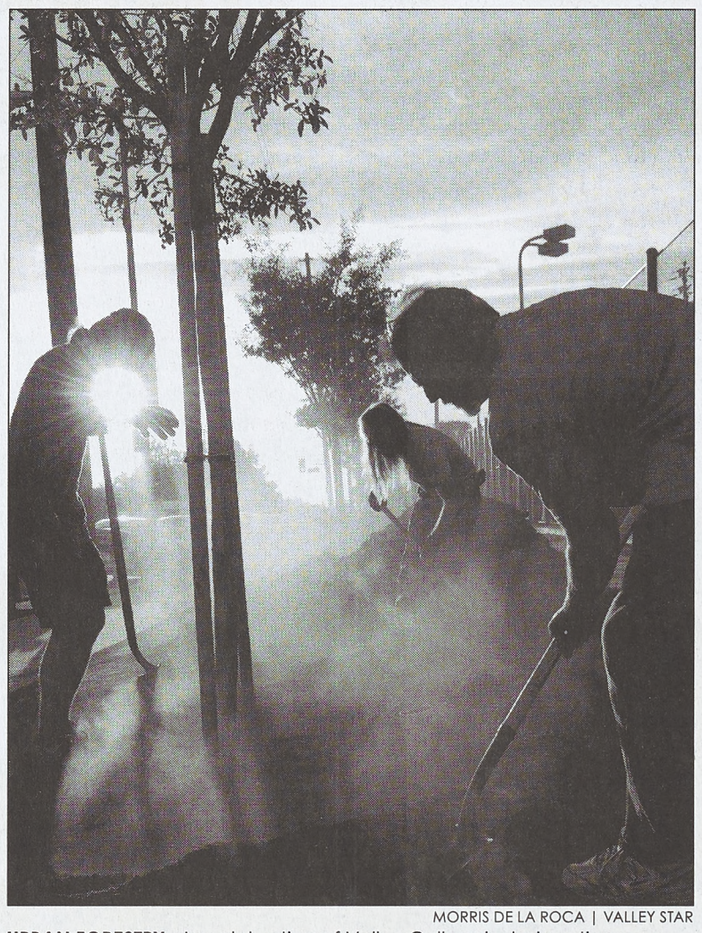
VALLEY STAR CORRECTIONS

Issue 3's "Valley College Uproots New Trees Alongside Burbank Boulevard" headline is incorrect. Valley is not uprooting trees but planting new ones as part of the honor of a Tree Campus USA school.

In Issue 2 "Red Cross Wants Valley's Blood," those who received piercings professionally don't have to wait a year to donate blood.

TREE CAMPUS USA



MORRIS DE LA ROCA | VALLEY STAR

URBAN FORESTRY - In celebration of Valley College's designation as a Tree Campus USA campus, students and faculty participated Oct. 15 in the ceremonial planting of trees donated by the Arbor Day Foundation.

ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

VALLEY AWARDED $1.7-MILLION GRANT

VALLEY COLLEGE BIOTECHNICAL STUDENTS COULD HAVE ADVANCEMENT IN JOB TRAINING.

THIRD ANNUAL ZED FILM FEST WON'T SCARE BANK ACCOUNTS

A DIFFERENT KIND OF FILM FEST CELEBRATES SPIRIT, NOT QUALITY.

LADY MONARCH GOALIE STANDS OUT

WOMEN'S WATER POLO TEAM HAS A NEW MEMBER: 17-YEAR-OLD FRESHMAN SAVANNAH SIMMONS.

MONARCHS COLLECT EIGHTH WIN OF THE SEASON

VALLEY DEFEATED FULLERTON COLLEGE IN A LOP-SIDED VICTORY.

READ THE STORIES AT WWW.LAVALLEYSTAR.COM SECTIONS/ONLINE-EXCLUSIVES OR SCAN THE QR CODE WITH A SMARTPHONE.

PRINTING

Continued from page 1

Bates had to allot a couple hours by bus to print on Mission's campus, but according to Bates, it was more affordable and timely for him to travel to Mission and use its resources.

"I don't own a computer let alone a printer," he said. "It was such an inconvenience ... This is a college, not a business."

Along with other students, Bates is looking forward to saving time by not having to hunt for a place to print.

"I spend all of my Mondays through Thursdays at the library doing homework, studying or browsing the Internet," he said. "It's convenient [to do in one place]."

Vice President of Administrative Services Tom Jacobsmeyer hopes to not have this issue recur.

"The whole mission of the college ... allows students to get work done," he said. "[It was] a glitch in a ... well-organized system."

According to Jacobsmeyer, the next printing negotiation will be for five years. Sampler is hopeful that the contract will be with Quality again.

"If I were able to choose, I would like [Quality]," she said. "We've always been happy with their service. If a maintenance problem occurs, they are here to fix it within a day."

The Library has more than 10 printers in its facility available for use. Black and white copying is 10 cents, and color copying is 25 cents, according to Sampler. Many of the printers are new and include features in which students can scan documents and even email them.

"Students are happy to print, and so are we," said Sampler.

The Library and Academic Resource Center is open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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MARIJUANA IS NOT A BAD SEED

The Los Angeles City Council's crusade would be better directed at tobacco and alcohol.

AL MASCAREÑAS
STAFF WRITER

"Marijuana, in its natural form, is one of the safest therapeutically active substances known . . . It would be unreasonable, arbitrary, and capricious for [the] DEA to continue to stand between those sufferers and the benefits of this substance." This was the 1988 ruling of the chief administrative judge of the Drug Enforcement Administration, after two years of testimony.

Although alcohol and tobacco have no comparable cheerleaders in the medical or scientific communities, the Los Angeles City Council allows alcohol and tobacco sales to rage on unabated and unmolested. At the same time, the City Council tries to shut down medical marijuana dispensaries.

Alcohol and tobacco are not used to treat or cure diseases; they are without therapeutic or medical value. Alcohol- and tobacco-related stories are about addiction, cancer, car crashes, premature deaths and damage to families.

Every 31 minutes a person died in an alcohol-related car crash in 2004. Thirty-nine percent of total traffic deaths during that year were alcohol related, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. In parts of America, 1.5 of every 1,000 live births have fetal alcohol syndrome, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the cost is $6 billion annually. The lifetime cost of treating one person with FAS is $1.4 million to $2 million.

As for tobacco, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says it is the main cause of preventable deaths in the United States. Tobacco causes more deaths than all the deaths caused by alcohol use, motor vehicle injuries, suicides, AIDS, murders and illegal drug use combined.

Regarding marijuana's medical value, the U.S. Government Accountability Office listed the following symptoms or conditions under Appendix IV of their November 2002 report titled "Descriptions of Allowable Conditions under State Medical Marijuana Laws": Alzheimer's disease, anorexia, AIDS, arthritis, cachexia, cancer, Crohn's disease, epilepsy, glaucoma, HIV, migraine, multiple sclerosis, nausea, pain, spasticity and wasting syndrome.

Medical marijuana dispensaries exist because the majority of Californians approved Proposition 215 in 1996. The Compassionate Use Act declares that patients diagnosed with any serious debilitating illness, where the medical use of marijuana has been "deemed appropriate and has been recommended by a physician," are legally protected.

If a man beats his wife, society does not allow the beatings to continue because that is what he has always done. Society expects authorities to stop the bad behavior, to look out for the common good. The reasoning is that bad things should not be tolerated because that is how it has always been. That social expectation, though, gets lost somehow when what is being considered is the damage done by alcohol and tobacco. Just as with its campaign to close medical marijuana dispensaries, the city has the authority to, for example, issue and cancel business permits and modify and enforce zoning and other ordinances that would limit the availability of alcohol and tobacco.

If medical marijuana dispensaries are shut down while the City Council turns a blind eye to the debilitating but formidable behemoths of tobacco and alcohol, it would be the act of opportunistic politicians and morality monopolists intolerant of those who get medicated. It would be the act of a bully.

CUTTING TO THE BONE

LOOK TO CANADA

Californians should learn from the success of protesters in Quebec.

KEVIN JERSEY

This may sound familiar: students fed up by continued tuition increases organize a protest to let the administration know they will not take it anymore. Despite the fact that they pay the lowest tuition fees in their country, these students are willing to stand up to perceived injustice. After months of protest, they prevailed.

If that does not ring any bells, it is because that particular protest happened in Quebec, Canada. But, California students should take note of their French-Canadian neighbors, unless they want to see tuition continue to rise while job prospects continue to dwindle.

Students in the Golden State have expressed displeasure with the relentless cuts to the state's education budget. But, these have been isolated incidents, small gatherings at individual campuses. Some of these protests have gained the attention of the public—notably the student protesters who were pepper-sprayed at UC Davis or the students who staged a hunger strike at a few of the Cal State campuses. In March, there was even a two-hour protest at the state capitol in Sacramento that drew 10,000 students.

Their efforts scored only a minor victory in the form of a proposed tax increase that would temporarily stop education cuts, though this came with the caveat that a tuition increase is almost certain if it does not pass.

Contrast this to the Quebec student protest, which began in February and featured more than 300,000 student protesters and continued until September when the government finally agreed to the protesters' demands and canceled the planned tuition increase.

Quebec's provincial government had planned to raise tuition by about 80 percent during the next five years. After the protest began, it also passed a law that attempted to limit the students' ability to assemble.

The students were undeterred and marched through Montreal less than a week later with almost half a million supporters in what has been called the largest act of civil disobedience in Canadian history. Their determination paid off. A newly elected premier took office on Sept. 21, and on her first day, she abandoned the planned tuition increase and repealed the law banning public demonstrations.

That these Canadians were victorious should be inspiring to students here. It is proof that students have a voice in the decisions that will affect their lives. They do not need to bear the financial burden of mistakes made by their government. They have become the victims in this economic battle because they allow themselves to be. A unified demonstration could show that they are no longer willing to play this role.

The Canadian protesters were vilified in the press, but their response, written by students Camille Robert and Jeanne Reynolds, was bold.

"If we are guilty of anything," they wrote, "it is of questioning the dogmas of the rich and powerful, who have spent the last decades trying to lower our expectations for what is politically possible. The purveyors of such dogmas insisted we be quiet and content because our tuition was already the lowest in Canada. But, it remains lowest precisely because we have fought our government every time it tried to raise it."

Californians struggling with student loans and ballooning fees would be wise to follow the example of these Canadians.

Email Kevin Jersey at *opinion@lavalleystar.com.*
Send general comments to *valleystar@lavalleystar.com.*

CANDIDATES DUKED IT OUT AT VP DEBATE

Vice President Joe Biden and Congressman Paul Ryan battled each other to a draw in the Vice Presidential Debate.

ASHLEY GOOSSEN
STAFF WRITER

Vice President Joe Biden and Republican Congressman Paul Ryan partook in the only vice presidential debate of the entire election last Thursday, Oct. 11, at Centre College in Danville, Kentucky.

Much unlike the presidential debate, it was difficult to determine a clear winner to last week's battle between the two vice presidential hopefuls.

From the first question asked, Biden did not hesitate to voice his opinion, aggressively attacking Ryan both with words, including sarcastically referring to Ryan as "my friend," and facial expressions, such as smiles and sneers.

While most, if not all, of Biden's statements were factual and eloquently spoken, it is impossible not to have a change of heart in regards to the character of the current vice president after observing his reaction to almost all of Ryan's remarks.

Not only were these expressions rude and overwhelmingly condescending, but they were also extremely distracting from the dialogue taking place.

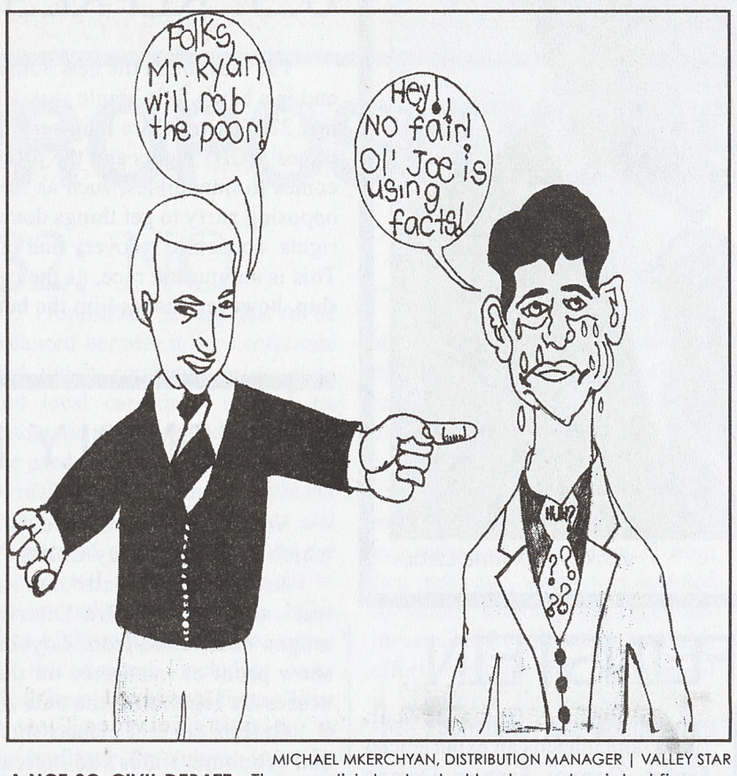
The debate covered a variety of topics ranging from taxes, jobs, Medicare, social security and a great emphasis on foreign affairs.

One of the key points discussed on the topic of foreign affairs was the war in Afghanistan.

Both candidates made it clear that it is essential to get U.S. troops out of Afghanistan sometime during 2014.

Ryan, to many people's surprise, was able to hold his own against Biden, proving himself to be unexpectedly knowledgeable on foreign affairs.

The congressman mentioned his apprehension of having a set date that troops would be organized to leave Afghanistan. "We don't want to broadcast to our enemies, 'Put a date on your calendar, wait us out and then come back,'" he said. "We want to make the transition [of troops out of Afghanistan] successful."



MICHAEL MKERCHYAN, DISTRIBUTION MANAGER | VALLEY STAR
A NOT-SO-CIVIL DEBATE - The candidates traded barbs and pointed fingers.

When the topic of religion and abortion came up, both candidates argued that they are personally pro-life.

However, Biden added to this, saying that though he is pro-life due to his Catholic upbringing, he has no right to tell women what to do with their bodies. This was a smart move; while his personal pro-life stance is attractive to conservatives, he was able to appeal to Democrats by mentioning his disagreement with telling others how to handle a topic as sensitive as abortion.

Ultimately, this debate can be seen as a win for both parties. Ryan held his own, keeping the momentum that his partner on the Republican ticket, Gov. Mitt Romney, started in the first presidential debate whereas Biden came prepared and was energetic and aggressive, unlike his running-mate, President Barack Obama.

Although Ryan shows promise and potential, Biden's vast experience makes him more fit than Ryan to serve as President if the need ever arose.

Overall, it is unlikely that the public will choose who it votes for based on the vice presidential debate alone. However, this debate was very useful to the American public, especially voters who are still undecided on how they will be voting this upcoming November, as it gave some valuable insight into the thoughts and character of the two men vying for the second-most powerful position in the U.S. government.

VALLEY VIEW | DO THE DEBATES HELP DETERMINE WHO TO VOTE FOR?

"My mind was made up before and the debate did nothing to change it. I'm voting for Obama."
-JULIE DE SENA, PSYCHOLOGY

"They just danced around the questions. Without knowing where they both stand, I don't know what my vote is going toward."
-ALEXANDER MORDI, KINESIOLOGY

"I got to see what both candidates were willing to do for college students and loans, but I already had my mind set before the debate."
-AUBREY PORTILLO, BIOLOGY

"The debate didn't influence me, because I wasn't going to vote for either. I'm going to vote third party."
-JOSH EBERHARD, PSYCHOLOGY

"A lot of issues cannot be presented in a debate. They're limited as a way to show how the candidates would change the country."
-CHRIS TRUONG, UNDECIDED

COMPILED BY RAY BLUMHORST | VALLEY STAR

FARMERS FIELD BRINGS A LOT TO LOS ANGELES

The new NFL stadium will bring jobs and economic growth to the city and good times to its residents.

JULIO FLORES
STAFF WRITER

The Los Angeles City Council voted unanimously last month to approve a plan to build a new $1.2-billion football stadium and a $315-billion convention hall downtown. Los Angeles has been without a professional football team since 1994 when both the Raiders and Rams left town.

If everything goes according to plan, builders could break ground on the stadium, dubbed Farmers Field, by March 2013.

This would be a huge boost to the economy of Los Angeles. It would mean jobs for many. The unemployment rate for Los Angeles last month stood at 11 percent. The true figure could be even higher due to the large number of unemployed people who no longer receive unemployment compensation and are not counted anymore.

"A modernized convention center means that we will become one of the nation's top five convention and meeting destinations, which means thousands of new jobs for L.A." Los Angeles mayor Antonio Villaraigosa said at the meeting where the City Council approved the stadium. "L.A. Live already has created 6,000 jobs since its opening, and Staples Center has four million visitors annually. This is truly a game-changer for Los Angeles."

And, the stadium could be used for many other events like concerts or even the Super Bowl or the Olympics. Economists have estimated that hosting the Super Bowl has brought about $300 to $400 million dollars to a city's economy based on past Super Bowls. A new NFL stadium will bring sorely needed dollars and jobs to Los Angeles.

Football is not a cure-all, but just like going to a movie or enjoying some form of entertainment, it can be a distraction and can make people feel better for a moment. Many residents of New Orleans suffered during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, and even though the Hornets and the Saints couldn't cure the ills of that disaster, people of that city felt good about having something to cheer for, something to rally behind and something to be impassioned about after a bad experience.

Los Angeles, as a city, has also been through many trials and tribulations, but it's exciting for the city to be behind something together. For instance, when the Lakers are in the playoffs, the city as a whole gets excited. It's a feeling of camaraderie. The National Football League is really the most popular sport in America, and not having an NFL team in Los Angeles is embarrassing. There is a whole generation of Los Angeles football fans who do not have a home team to root for in the second largest city in America.

For kids across the country, it is exciting to go to the ballpark with their dads. But, fathers cannot take their sons to a professional football game in Los Angeles. So an NFL stadium does not just have a monetary value—it can create a moment that is priceless. A kid always remembers his first ball game with his dad, and hopefully a kid will make a memory of his first NFL game in the new stadium in Los Angeles very soon—maybe even a Super Bowl. Football is Americana. They do not play it anywhere else in the world, so Angelenos should look forward to an NFL stadium that will help the economy and give city residents and their children something to cheer for.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Letters to the editor can be sent to **editorinchief@lavalleystar.com** or submitted online at **www.lavalleystar.com.** Letters must be limited to 300 words and may be edited for content. Full name and contact information must be supplied in order for letters to be printed. Send by Thursday for the following week's issue.

endorse

VALLEY STAR ENDORSEMENTS FOR T

The time remaining to register to vote in the 2012 election is ticking away, as is the time to become informed about candidates and propositions before Election Day.

The first step to having a voice and exercising the right to vote is to register.

Registering to vote before Monday, Oct. 22 is a simple task. Mail-in registration should be postmarked by the 22nd, or students can register online.

For students who would like assistance in the process or more information on registering, consider visiting Valley's Political Action Coalition club at Monarch Square. For those who do not want to obtain the form on campus, visit the local Department of Motor Vehicles and pick up a form or register online at www.registertovote.ca.gov.

Become informed about the candidates and their stances on issues like health care, education and foreign policy.

Visit President Barack Obama's stance on the issues at www.barackobama.com/issues and Republican candidate Mitt Romney's at www.mittromney.com/issues, or read further for the Valley Star's endorsements. These endorsements were voted on by the Valley Star editorial staff after weighing the pros and cons of each candidate and proposition.

The quick response codes and links on page 5 lead to the information from the California General Election Official Voter Information Guide about the propositions. Scan the codes with a smartphone, or vist the URL to obtain the official summaries by the attorney general.

A good idea—especially for first-time voters—is to set a reminder for Election Day, Nov. 6. Forgetful students should consider signing up for Rock the Vote's text message election reminders. To register for the text message updates, visit www.rockthevote.com/election-center/sign-up-for-election.html.

Exercising the right to vote is easy: register, become informed and vote.

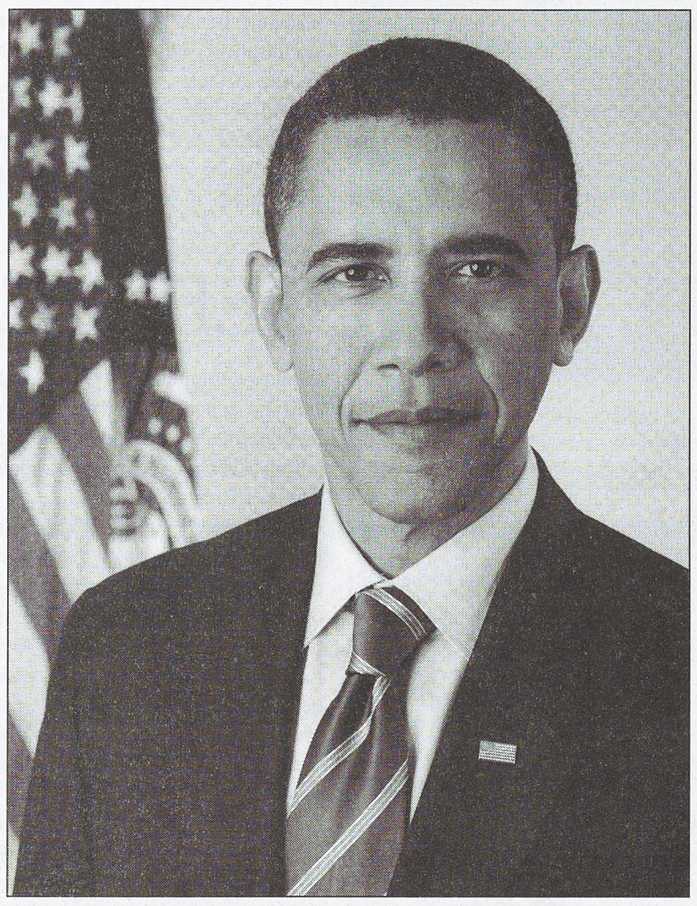
PRESIDENT: BARACK OBAMA

The presidential election is a race between two candidates with divergent viewpoints on running the nation. However, President Barack Obama's focus on students makes him a better choice than Gov. Mitt Romney.

Obama has been good to community college students; thanks to his Affordable Care Act, young adults can stay on their parents' health insurance plan until age 26. Romney plans to get rid of the Affordable Care Act; in fact, that is one of his first plans if elected. This means that anyone 18 or older or who has graduated from college who wants to have health insurance would need to purchase it and would not automatically be covered by their parents' policy.

Romney also has no plans to prioritize educational funding while Obama's 2013 budget contains plans to create a new community college to career fund and provide grants to schools that will partner in fields from health care to information technology.

A vote for President Obama would mean a chance for him to continue the forward thinking that America and California's students need.



SOUZA | WWW.WHITEHOUSE.GOV

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE: TONY CARDENAS

The election in the new 29th District pits Los Angeles City Council member and former State Assembly member Tony Cardenas against David Hernandez, a Navy veteran and executive director of the San Fernando Chamber of Commerce. Hernandez claims to support education, but he opposes same-sex marriage rights, legal abortion and gun control efforts.

Cardenas has had success cleaning up neighborhoods and reducing crime in the San Fernando Valley while helping businesses create new jobs. He has supported public schools, labor unions, environmental groups and women's health issues. These positions, along with years of public service, make Cardenas the easy choice.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE: HOWARD BERMAN

The election in the new 30th District features two incumbent representatives displaced from former districts and in a battle for a single seat. Howard Berman, from the former 28th District, and Brad Sherman, from the former 27th District, are long-serving Democrat congressmen who have voted to support education, environmental issues, LGBT rights and the president's health care plan. The choice between these highly qualified candidates comes to intangibles, such as leadership and the ability to reach across the aisle to work with members of the opposing party to get things done. In these areas, Berman stands out. He has helped lead the fight for immigrant rights, economic recovery and environmental protection, managing to gain Republican support along the way. This is an unusual race, as the candidates are similar in qualifications and politics. Berman's display of leadership, however, makes him the better choice.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER: MICHAEL GATTO

Voters are encouraged to re-elect Assembly member Mike Gatto to the 43rd Assembly District, which includes Valley College and surrounding neighborhoods.

Assemblyman Gatto, the son of a public school teacher and grandson of a steelworker and immigrant, was raised in the 43rd District. He earned a bachelor's degree in history from UCLA and graduated magna cum laude from Loyola Law School. His achievements include legislation allowing motorists to show proof of insurance on their smartphones, extending the film tax credit and promoting small businesses by legalizing the sale of homemade foods.

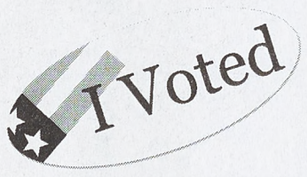
Gatto's current efforts to create green jobs, cut government spending, establish a rainy day fund for bad economic times and increase safety at stadiums show that he continues to work to make things better for the people of his district. He deserves re-election.

U.S. SENATOR: DIANNE FEINSTEIN

FEINSTEIN.SENATE.GOV

California is facing difficult times, and it needs an experienced leader. Current Senator Dianne Feinstein —who has been a senator since 1992—has proven her leadership, making it clear that her first priority is to stabilize California's economy. Feinstein is in favor of payroll tax cuts that will help to create much-needed jobs in the state. She advocates for increases to teacher and first responder salaries. These are measures that will help the economy grow. As a member of the Judiciary Committee, she ensures that the civil rights of all citizens are protected. She has also led efforts to preserve California's environment and make health care more affordable for its citizens. A vote for the Feinstein will help make a difference for those in the Golden State.

EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT: VOTE ON NOV. 6



Deadline for voter registration: Oct. 22

Polling locations open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m.

Call 562-466-1310 to find your voting location.

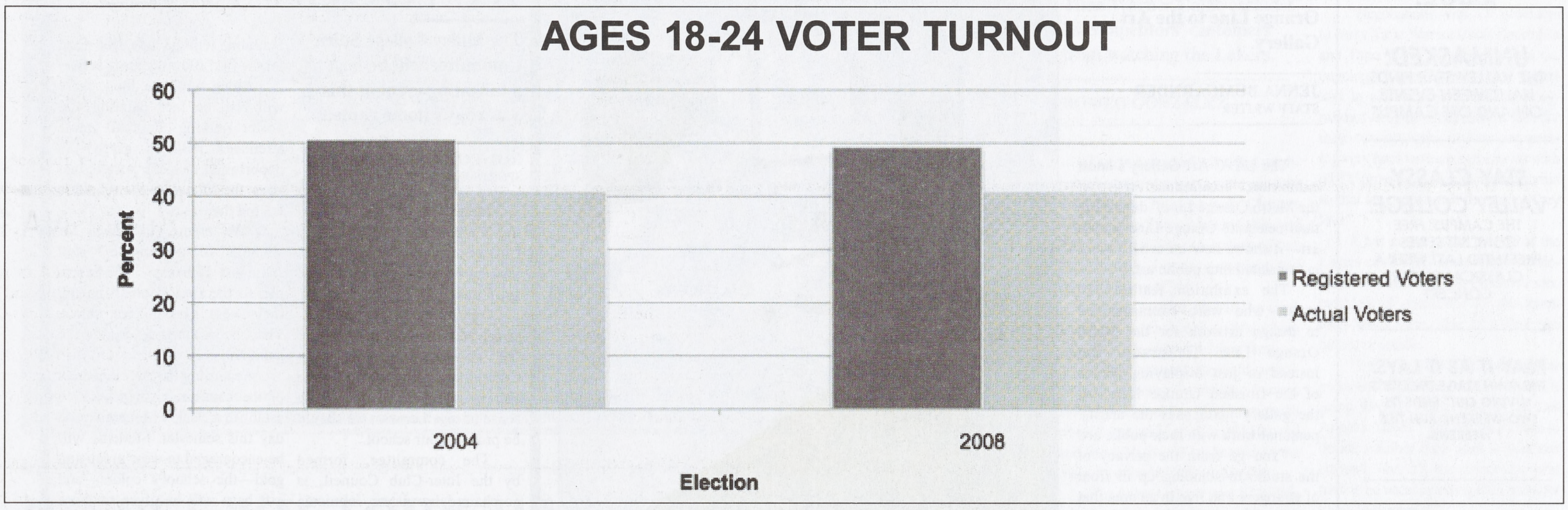
VALLEY COLLEGE PROP. 30 DEBATE

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 24 AT 1 P.M. IN MONARCH HALL

JOIN THE ASSOCIATED STUDENT UNION AND THE POLITICAL ACTION COALITION FOR A STUDENT DEBATE ON PROP 30.

THE VALLEY STAR WILL MODERATE THE DEBATE. PLEASE SEND YOUR QUESTIONS FOR THE DEBATE TO VALLEYSTAR@LAVALLEYSTAR.COM WITH THE SUBJECT TITLE "PROP 30 DEBATE QUESTION" OR VISIT BUSINESS-JOURNALISM 114.

OR THE NOVEMBER 6, 2012 ELECTION



STATISTICS FROM THE U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

CALIFORNIA PROPOSITIONS: YES OR NO

30: YES

Of all the propositions this election, the most important for education is Proposition 30, and voters should support it. Voting no on Proposition 30 would allow budget cuts to worsen. By saying yes, voters acknowledge the importance of education with two temporary tax increases: a seven-year increase on those with an annual income of more than $250,000 and a four-year .25-percent sales tax increase, both of which will impede further cuts to schools. The collected tax money would help fund the state's budget and stop education reductions. Do not neglect California's schools; support the temporary tax increases for education's sake.

HTTP://1.USA.GOV/OCO2S7

31: NO

Proposition 31 would essentially shift the way Sacramento works, giving the governor complete control of the budget in cases of emergency if legislators cannot make spending decisions. Expenditures of more than $25 million would also be prohibited without offsetting revenues or cuts, making it difficult to approve funding for necessary programs. Local governments would have more control of how they spend their tax money for state-funded programs, allowing them to override state laws regarding education and public safety and health. Proposition 31 promises to balance the state budget, which sounds good, but it would actually hurt Californians. Vote no on Proposition 31.

HTTP://1.USA.GOV/NGT0Q0

32: NO

Proposition 32 appears to be balanced because it bans corporate and union contributions to state and local candidates as well as automatic paycheck deductions that are used for political purposes. But in reality, Proposition 32 would not affect business super PACs, and 99 percent of corporations do not use payroll deductions to contribute to political candidates. More than 1,000 companies are exempted by this measure, including some Wall Street investment firms. What Proposition 32 is really trying to do is silence the unions' voice by not allowing them to contribute to candidates while allowing corporations to continue to do so. Vote no on Proposition 32.

HTTP://1.USA.GOV/PQFYUC

33: NO

Proposition 33 would allow auto insurance companies to give discounts to some customers while raising rates on others. It would unfairly penalize drivers who had been without coverage for any reason, even if they did not drive or own a car during that time. This is a rehash of Proposition 17 from two years ago, which was defeated by voters. Mercury Insurance has invested $16.4 million to back this effort, meaning that the proposal is sponsored by the very insurance companies that would profit from the proposal if it passes. Proposition 33 is deceptive and is a sleazy way for insurance companies to raise rates. Vote no on Proposition 33.

HTTP://1.USA.GOV/QCAQBL

34: YES

A yes vote on Proposition 34 would eliminate the death sentence and make life without parole the maximum sentence for murder in California. Opponents argue that murderers would not be brought to justice but would die in prison and be forced to work to pay restitution to the families of their victims. After all, if the law says murder is illegal, then the state cannot allow its citizens to be sentenced to death. Two wrongs don't make a right. Additionally, the elimination of the death sentence would save taxpayers $130 million, according to the Legislative Analyst of California, a nonpartisan advisor. The death penalty is wrong, morally and financially, and should be abolished.

HTTP://1.USA.GOV/WOK6E5

35: YES

The purpose behind California's Proposition 35 is to prohibit human trafficking and sex slavery. It is essential that this proposition be passed. If approved by California voters, Proposition 35 would increase prison terms and fines for human traffickers up to $1.5 million to fund victim services and remove the need to prove force to prosecute sex trafficking of a minor. According to The Reporter, "in California, vulnerable women and young girls are held against their will and forced into prostitution for the financial gain of human traffickers." California must crack down on this dehumanizing crime. Vote yes to take a stand against the cruelty of human trafficking.

HTTP://1.USA.GOV/QSVPPD

36: YES

With the elections less than a month away, voters have to make a decision on the three strikes law that imposes a life sentence on criminals after their third felony conviction. Voting yes on Proposition 36 would revise the three strikes law and only give a life sentence when a felony conviction is for a serious or violent crime. It would also maintain a life sentence penalty for felons convicted of non-serious, non-violent crimes if previous convictions were for rape, murder or child molestation. Currently, the system punishes criminals who have committed felonies that are not considered violent or serious. A yes vote would save the state $70 million annually, with a possible increase up to $90 million in the next decade.

HTTP://1.USA.GOV/QSVVQZ

37: YES

A yes vote on Proposition 37 would require the state of California to label genetically engineered foods. These foods, also known as genetically modified organisms, are plants or animals that have had their DNA artificially altered using genes from other plants, animals, viruses or bacteria. It would also ban labeling or advertising food as "natural." According to Earth Open Source, feeding genetically modified foods to laboratory and farm animals has proven these foods can be toxic and allergenic. Humans are not lab animals, and they should be told if their food may potentially be harmful. All Californians should vote yes on Proposition 37 for the right to know what is in the food they eat.

HTTP://1.USA.GOV/OGEGBI

38: NO

At first glance, Proposition 38 looks like a good thing. It promises to raise billions of dollars for schools by increasing state income taxes. But, a closer inspection reveals major flaws. The tax increase would apply to people of all income levels, even those earning as little as $7,316 per year—a devastating blow to people already struggling. This would also hurt small businesses, which would likely be unable to hire new employees and possibly be forced to reduce their workforce. Worst of all, these tax rates would be locked in for 12 years without any requirement to improve school performance. Increasing funding for schools is a good idea, but Proposition 38 is not the way to do it.

HTTP://1.USA.GOV/OCOFLN

39: YES

A yes vote on Proposition 39 closes loopholes in multi-state corporation tax liability and creates revenue for clean energy jobs. Currently, companies that do business in California and elsewhere have two ways to determine their tax liability. Businesses can either use a three-factor method, which calculates taxes based on sales, employees or property located in California, or a single sales method, which bases taxes on a company's percentage of sales in California. Proposition 39 would require all multi-state businesses to use the single-sales method, eliminating the opportunity to pay less state tax than companies based solely in California. The anticipated $1 billion in revenue would be used for alternative energy, energy efficiency projects and educational funding.

HTTP://1.USA.GOV/SMFQ0N

40: YES

The original intent of Proposition 40 was to preserve the new state Senate districts drawn by the Citizens Redistricting Commission. Rejecting the proposal would have overruled these changes and restored the old districts. However, a recent decision by the State Supreme Court that validated the new district boundaries supersedes any effect that the proposition would have had. A vote to reject the bill would mean appointing a commission to draw new district maps even though the court has already said they would not be implemented. This would be a ridiculous waste of about $500,000 of taxpayers' money. Vote yes on Proposition 40 to avoid unnecessary spending.

HTTP://1.USA.GOV/QSW1VM

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD: WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT PROP 30?

SEND YOUR ANSWER TO WWW.LAVALLEYSTAR.COM

OR SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW.

ONLINE AND IN OUR NEXT ISSUE:

UNMASKED:
THE VALLEY STAR FINDS HALLOWEEN EVENTS ON AND OFF CAMPUS

STAY CLASSY, VALLEY COLLEGE:
THE CAMPUS' FREE CONCERT SERIES PRESENTED LAST WEEK A CLASSICAL GUITAR CONCERT

PLAY IT AS IT LAYS:
THE MAIN STAGE THEATER'S "LIVING OUT" ENDS ITS TWO-WEEKEND RUN THIS WEEKEND.

TO READ THE VALLEY STAR REVIEW OF "LIVING OUT," VISIT WWW.LAVALLEYSTAR.COM OR SCAN THE QR:

ART IN TRANSIT AT VALLEY

Valley instructor Phung Huynh brings the Metro Orange Line to the Art Gallery.

JENNA BUMGARNDER
STAFF WRITER

The LAVC Art Gallery's latest exhibition, "Translations: Artists of the Metro Orange Line," does more than celebrate Orange Line station art—it shows how an artist's work is translated into public art.

The exhibition features 20 artists who were commissioned to design artwork for the Metro Orange Line Transitway. But instead of just displaying photos of the finished Orange Line art, the gallery juxtaposes the artists' personal work with their public art.

"You go from the privacy of the studio to standing up in front of strangers that live in an area that you don't live in," said Jorge Pardo, Metro director of art and design. "I believe that makes your work stronger."

Phung Huynh, an assistant instructor of art at Valley College, is featured in the exhibition and is also one of the three exhibition coordinators. Huynh's personal work had many layers—literally and metaphorically. In her personal piece, several women with bound feet have been drawn and then sanded down so they barely appear. A koi pond, lush with lotus flowers and floating cherub heads are painted atop the "erased" women.

Huynh's commissioned work for the Laurel Canyon Station, titled "Lucky California," married Chinese and Californian symbols. In one piece, Chinese cherubs wearing pilot hats fly on planes and birds in an orange-filled sky.

"The Chinese cherubs … wish everyone good luck on their journey," said Huynh.

Overall, the exhibition is very thoughtful and diverse yet related by the theme of translation. Some notable pieces in the gallery include ceramic security cameras by Sandow Birk and a quilt made from plant cyanotypes by Daniel Marlos.

"It's a good one to go out on," said Arts Dean Dennis Reed, who is retiring this semester. "I think [Huynh] has done a great job."

"Translations: Artists of the Metro Orange Line" is located in the LAVC Art Gallery, which is open Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m. The exhibition will run through Dec. 13. For more information about the Art Gallery, visit www.lavc.edu/arts/artgallery.html.

FATIMA JIMENEZ | VALLEY STAR
ATTENTION TO DETAIL - Valley student Rick Friesen attended the opening reception of "Translations: Artists of the Metro Orange Line," an exhibition featuring 20 artists whose work runs along the Orange Line open through Dec. 13.

MONARCHS LACK SCHOOL SPIRIT IN TOUGH TIMES

The Valley College Spirit Committee will be host to a tailgating event at this Saturday's home game.

ROMEO GONZALEZ
SPORTS EDITOR

Despite the Monarchs' losing football season, the Valley College Spirit Committee is looking for ways to keep school spirit alive.

"We know this is a commuter school," said Alexia Johnson, the co-chair to the Spirit Committee. "[But] we should be able to get involved and feel a sense of togetherness; we should be proud of our school."

The committee, formed by the Inter-Club Council, is co-chaired by sisters Johniema Hababag, and Johnnica Hababag from the active club and Alexia Johnson from the sociology club.

They expressed that the group's goal is to increase Valley's school spirit any way possible. The committee wants to have more of the student body attend school events and show Valley pride.

"We need more student spirit to increase," said Johniema Hababag. "I know we have been losing a lot [of football games], but we still need to represent the school."

To encourage more students to attend, the committee will stage a tailgating party Saturday during the Monarchs' fourth home game of the season. The event, in Lot E next to Monarch Stadium, will include free food for the first 100 students to arrive.

Along with the food, there will also be face painting and poster making. Football game attendees will be given the opportunity to make posters that show the Monarchs the school is behind them.

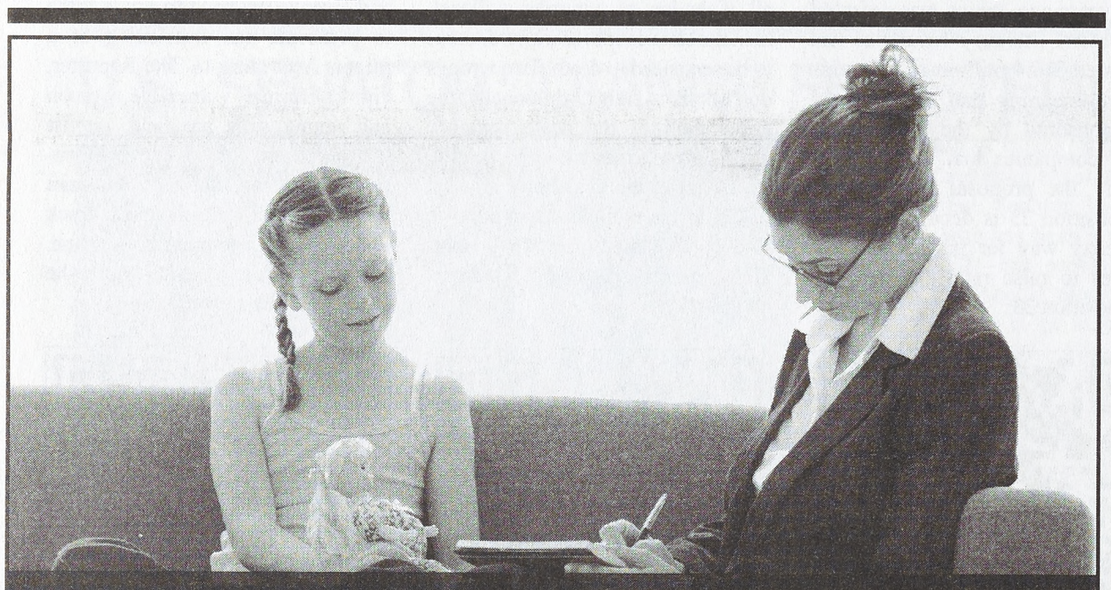
"We create incentives for students to participate," said Johniema Hababag. "For example, to the first [football game], they were giving free shirts. That encouraged me to go to the game."

According to the members of the committee, they want to establish a weekly Monarch pride day this semester. Students will be encouraged to wear green and gold—the school's colors—and gift bags will be given to those who participate.

According to Johnson, the committee does the best it can to promote school events by hanging handmade posters around the school. The problem, Johnson said, is that the college restricts where posters can be displayed, and the vice president of Student Services has to approve signage before it is posted.

"There are so many restrictions and limitations on where we can put posters up," said Johnson. "There are restrictions on when we can put them up and how long we can put them up."

The members of the committee meet Tuesdays from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room in Monarch Hall.



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DIANA ORTEGA, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER | VALLEY STAR
BACK TO BASICS - Dressed in the authentic mariachi clothing, a five-piece band played familiar Latin tunes at the Latino Heritage Celebration Wednesday, Oct. 10, in front of the Student Services Center.

VALLEY HIGHLIGHTS ITS STUDENTS' LATIN HERITAGE

Music, food and fun were part of last week's Latino Heritage Celebration.

JULIO FLORES
STAFF WRITER

Latin music and the smell of carne asada filled the air last Wednesday afternoon in front of the newly reopened Student Services Center complete with its recently constructed awning. About 150 Valley College students stood in line to eat a free meal of carne asada, chicken, rice and beans as part of "La Bienvenida: A Latino Heritage Celebration."

The event, held in the Student Services Center Quad, was a joint effort by the Valley College Diversity Committee, the Associated Student Union and Mi Comunidad to celebrate the heritage of Valley's nearly 42-percent Hispanic population during Latino Heritage Month from Sept. 15 through Oct.15.

Mi Comunidad—"My community"—is an organization comprised of faculty members at Valley who assist Hispanic students in striving for their goals.

The festival was created to help create an atmosphere of openness between cultures and to bring attention to the fact that Valley has a large Latin population, according to Jose Hernandez, a counselor of the TRiO program who assisted with the event.

"We are here to support [students] and to help you achieve your goals, to help your dreams come true and for you to know that anything is possible," said Hernandez.

With a small stage set up surrounded by tables and chairs, this event featured performances by Edgar y Lucy and Mariachi Los Tigres de San Fernando High School complete with horns and a violin and the members adorned in formal mariachi attire.

"I've been playing violin since the second grade," said Ernesto Lazaro, the leader and violinist of Mariachi Los Tigres de San Fernando High School. "I'm hoping to go to the Berklee School of Music or Julliard."

The event also featured a number of school clubs, including the health club and a table of Venezuelan art.

"I'm here to celebrate the diversity of our campus," said Melanie Hernandez, the president of the Tau Alpha Epsilon honors society.

"La Bienvenida: The Latino Heritage Celebration" is an ongoing event, but this is the first time it has taken place at Valley.

"I come here because this is part of me," said Edgar Cruz of the Colombian band Edgar y Lucy, which performed at the event. "I'm here to share my culture, and it's good to influence young people to learn new music and learn about my culture so they can learn about theirs."

RICHARD RAZAVI| PHOTO EDITOR

BREAKING THROUGH - Tight end Beau Sandland of Pierce College dodges the Monarchs defense at the Victory Bell game held at Pierce College.

PIERCE VICTORY HAS FAMILIAR RING

Pierce College rang the bell on the Monarchs and defeated them for the fifth time in a row.

ANTWONE MERCER
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

For the Brahmas, the sweet sound of victory bells rang across Shepherd Stadium before and after Saturday's homecoming game in which they defeated the Monarchs a fifth time in a row 24-6.

Pierce College earned the town's bragging rights and the sacred Victory Bell while penalties cost the Monarchs 122 negative yards and their season's sixth straight loss.

The Monarchs came out to the gridiron looking to reclaim the Victory Bell. Valley College took an early lead in the first quarter after a 51-yard punt return by Antonio Bray and a 26-yard rushing touchdown by running back Royce Long two plays later. The 2-point conversion attempt by the Monarchs was denied, keeping Valley up 6-3.

"This is one of the best junior college rivalry games in junior college," said Brahmas' head coach Efrain Martinez. "Valley did a great job preparing for this game and gave us the challenge that we needed."

The Monarchs were flagged 10 times for 122 negative yards. A holding penalty against Valley cost it a third-quarter touchdown that would have tied the game. Monarchs head coach Larry Kerr was also penalized with unsportsmanlike conduct after contesting a non-call on a late hit by the Brahmas.

"If we minimize some of the mistakes, it will definitely help us," said offensive line coach James Hardy. "We did some good things and some bad things, but the biggest things were the penalties."

Pierce contained Valley to 58 total rushing yards and 130 total passing yards and capitalized off the Monarchs' penalties.

In the second quarter, Pierce quarterback Gerald Bowman aired out a 24-yard pass to wide receiver Tyrin Stone-Davis to put the Brahmas up 10-6 at the half.

In the third, Bowman connected with tight end Beau Sandland on a 3-yard pass for a touchdown putting Pierce up 17-6.

With 3 minutes left in the last quarter of play, Pierce's second-string quarterback Shane Bick ended the game with a 14-yard pass to wide receiver Jaelen Strong that resulted in a Brahmas victory-securing touchdown.

"We have got to be more disciplined," said Kerr. "We're making some dumb penalties and hurting ourselves. It's not hard to see what's happening out there. Obviously, penalties are what beat you—if you don't let the other team beat you, you beat yourself."

The Monarchs' next home game kicks off Saturday, Oct. 20 at 6 p.m. against the Santa Monica Corsairs with a special "Coaches vs. Cancer" Varsity Athletic Leadership Council Organization-sponsored jersey-signing fundraiser. For $5, game attendees can sign a football jersey with the name of a family or friend who was affected by cancer. All the proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society, and the jersey will be on display in the Monarchs' Athletic office inside the South Gym. Donations can also be placed in advance at the office for those who cannot attend the game but would still like to support the cause.

THINK IT THROUGH

LAKERS FANS GET A NO LOOK PASS FROM TIME WARNER

Time Warner Cable excludes its competitors' customers from watching the Lakers.

ROMEO GONZALEZ

Don't be shocked when that neighbor who hates you knocks on your door and offers to fix your sink. Chances are you have Time Warner Cable and they want to see the Lakers game. Unfortunately, I wont be watching and so won't many of you.

It's just another deal in the cruel world of professional sports where money is more powerful than fans.

For the moment, the highly anticipated championship roster that features Kobe Bryant and Pau Gasol along with new all-star additions Dwight Howard and Steve Nash will not be seen in the majority of homes in Los Angeles.

The Lakers have a new $3-billion television partner for the next 20 years: Time Warner Cable. This means for those of you who are not Time Warner Cable customers, you will miss most Lakers games.

Time Warner has been unable to convince other big television providers like DirecTV to pick up their two new Lakers channels. DirecTV has three million customers, and Time Warner wants to charge each subscriber $3.95 a month to see its Lakers channels. That's $12 million Time Warner would be receiving from one company.

Talk about making something from nothing. In the past, the Lakers away games were broadcasted by local television station KCAL 9. This was something Angelenos, such as myself, who do not have cable appreciated.

"Negotiations with TV providers to carry Time Warner Cable SportsNet and Time Warner Cable Deportes are ongoing," Time Warner Cable Sports said in a statement. "There is a significant demand from Lakers fans for these two networks, and we are working very hard to reach agreements with all TV providers in Southern California so that fans can watch the games they love."

It has come to the point that the Lakers can't watch themselves on television. Jeanie Buss, the executive vice president of operations for the team, can't see a game due to a deal she helped negotiate.

"I've been a DirecTV customer for years, so I understand what everyone is going through," Buss said to the Los Angeles Times. "The providers have to decide whether they want to take our channel, and it's the customers who have to be vocal in letting their provider know they want it."

With all this new technology, which includes 3D televisions and surround sound, it feels like we're taking a step back and not forward. We have gone so far back to times where you had to go to your local barbershop to hear a game on the radio, not watch it.

Yes, until a deal is negotiated, these will be tough times for the Laker Nation. It's not the same when you turn on your television and have to watch a Clippers game filled with Lakers rejects.

Email Romeo Gonzalez at *sports@lavalleystar.com*.
Send general comments to *valleystar@lavalleystar.com*.

MONARCH SCHEDULES

Football:
Saturday, October 20
vs. Santa Monica
@ Valley
"Coaches vs. Cancer" event

VISIT WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/LAVC VALLEY STAR, OR SCAN THE QR.

Saturday, October 27
vs. Glendale
@ Valley 6 p.m.
Saturday, November 3
@ Culver City 1 p.m.

Women's Soccer:
Friday, October 19
vs. Pierce
@ Valley 4 p.m.
Tuesdsay, October 23
@ Valencia 4 p.m.
Friday, October 26
@ Glendora 12 p.m.

Men's Water Polo:
Wednesday, October 17
@ Ventura 2:15 p.m.
Thursday, October 18
vs. American River
@ Valley 2:30 p.m.

Women's Water Polo:
Wednesday, October 24
vs. Santa Monica
@ Valley 4:15 p.m.

ACTIVE CLUB, KINESIOLOGY STAFF ON THE HUNT FOR VALLEY'S BIGGEST LOSER

The seven-week South Gym Fitness Center fitness challenge and fundraiser ends Nov. 19.

ARIEL WAITKUWEIT
COPY EDITOR

Determined to spread activeness and good nutrition, kinesiology program staff member Louis Jones, the Student Health Center and active club have tweaked spring 2012's "Body-Fit Challenge" this semester to further motivate participants to lose weight.

"Last time, we had a four-week challenge, and now it's a seven-week," said Jones, the Fitness Center director. "This semester, we're [also] offering sessions on how to eat."

According to Jones, these group nutrition sessions cost $15, but he is also willing to work individually with participants who prefer one-on-one conferences. Apart from the nutrition sessions, the $10 seven-week challenge, which started Oct. 8, will end Nov. 19. Valley College students, staff and community members interested in participating can still join even though the event already started.

A male and female winner will be selected based on most significant weight loss, and each will receive an LAVC gift bag containing two IPIC Theater tickets; gift certificates from Healthyca, Sharkey's and Subway; a one-month personal consultant exercise and food assessment; and campus memorabilia. In addition, participants will automatically be entered in a Pedalers West Bicycle Shop-sponsored mountain bike raffle.

With 65 participants and counting, the fundraising challenge—whose money will go to Fitness Center equipment repairs—is just a minor goal for Jones, who is determined to address hypertension and obesity issues.

"My ultimate goal is to spread this out to the community," Jones said, "create a foundation here at the school and branch out to neighboring community colleges or even outside the district."

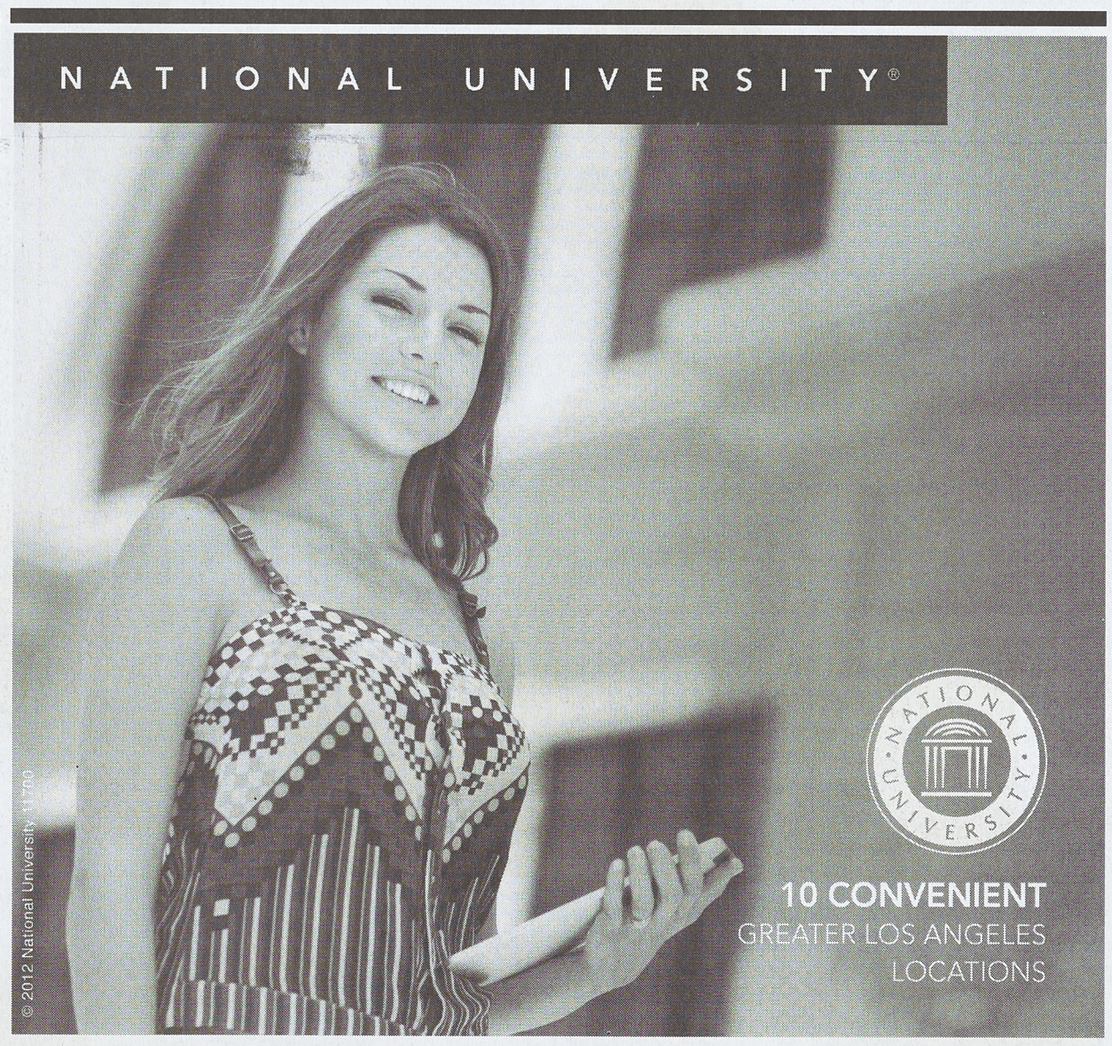
Business major Maricela Salamanca, a winner from last semester's challenge who has continued losing weight, has experienced Jones' determination first hand and thinks that he, her family, friends and other participants were the main reason she was able to lose 13 pounds in a month—a goal she had never reached before.

"I think the motivation of being with a group than just on your own," Salamanca said, "really makes a difference, [and] it's motivation if the teacher will encourage you."

Sports Information Director Dale Beck, another participant from this past semester's debut challenge and fundraiser, believes that Jones' motivation comes from within him.

"Jones walks the talk; when he's able, he eats right, works out and stays healthy," Beck said.

For more information regarding challenge or nutrition-session participation, email Jones at joneslh@lavc.edu or call his office at 818-947-2507. The Fitness Center's hours are Monday through Thursday from 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 8 to 11 a.m.



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VALLEY STAR SHINES AT COMPETITION

STORY BY JENNA BUMGARDNER
STAFF WRITER

LAYOUT BY RICHARD RAZAVI
PHOTO EDITOR

The Valley Star won more than 15 on-the-spot and mail-in awards last weekend at the Journalism Association of Community Colleges 2012 SoCal Regional Conference in Fullerton, including the coveted General Excellence Award.

"General Excellence, which is the highest award that a community college newspaper can receive at the regional conference, was the highlight of JACC for me," said Valley Star Editor in Chief Courtney Bassler. "Last semester, the whole staff … worked hard to build it back to the award-winning … paper … and the award of General Excellence validated that."

Twenty-three Southern California colleges participated in the conference, which included awards and workshops by industry professionals. The awards were in two divisions: mail-in awards, comprised of work submitted that was published in the spring semester, and on-the-spot awards, in which student journalists competed to write stories and take photos on events presented at the conference.

The Star had five students—two writers and three photographers—attend the conference and compete in on-the spot awards, with three taking home awards. Bassler won fourth place in the critical review category, Photo Editor Richard Razavi won third place the sports photo category and staff photographer Morris De La Roca won an honorable mention in the feature photo competition.

"It was cool to work next to other photographers and a challenge to try to make your work stand out," said Photo Editor Richard Razavi, who won two mail-in honorable mentions for sports action photo and third place for the on-the-spot sports photo competition. "It was also fun competing against friends."

General Excellence is an award based on the newspaper as a whole. Each school submits three consecutive issues from the previous semester to be judged, and at this year's regional conference, 18 won. It is the highest honor at the regional level. At the statewide conference, held during the spring semester, one school is chosen to receive the Pacesetter Award, which goes to the school will the most points based on mail-in and on-the-spot wins that semester.

The Star will compete in JACC's Statewide Conference in Sacramento next semester.

"I am proud of the hard work these students put into the Valley Star every semester," said Bill Dauber, the journalism instructor and co-advisor of the Star. "Not many know what it takes to produce the campus newspaper. I am glad to see they have been honored with the General Excellence award almost every semester for the past 10 years."

For more information about competition, visit www.lavalleystar.com.

RICHARD RAZAVI, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR

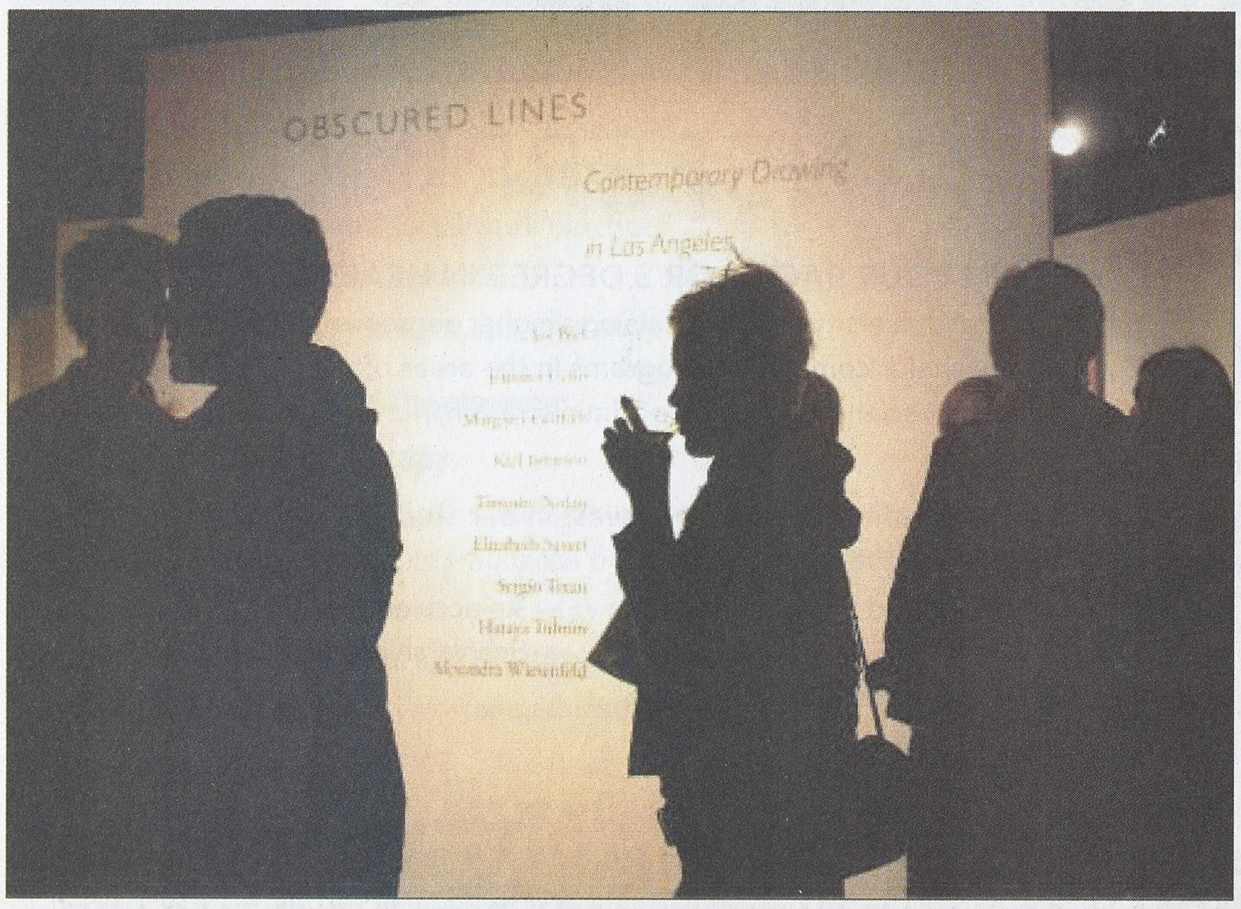
THIRD PLACE, ON-THE-SPOT SPORTS - Photo Editor Richard Razavi won third place in the on-the-spot sports photo competition, with this shot of a football game between rival high schools, Troy and La Habra, in which a LaHabra player unsuccessfully attempts to stop a Troy player from scoring a touchdown.

MORRIS DE LA ROCA | VALLEY STAR

HONORABLE MENTION, ON-THE-SPOT FEATURE - Actors from Knott's Berry Farm's "Knott's Scary Farm" Halloween event participated in the feature competition.

MAGGIE HASBUN | VALLEY STAR

THIRD PLACE, MAIL-IN PHOTO ILLUSTRATION - Staff photographer Maggie Hasbun's photo illustration that won a third-place award accompanied an editorial about the importance of college newspapers.



DIANA ORTEGA, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER | VALLEY STAR

HONORABLE MENTION, MAIL-IN FEATURE - The spring semester's LAVC Art Gallery exhibition "Obscured Lines" was the subject of Chief Photographer Diana ORtega's honorable mention award-winning photo.

RICHARD RAZAVI, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR

HONORABLE MENTION, MAIL-IN SPORTS ACTION - A photo from spring baseball game against College of the Canyons, in which a Cougar slid into home and missed tagging the plate, won Photo Editor Richard Razavi an honorable mention award.